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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



January 17, 1949

To: Assistant Director,
Office of Reports & Estimates,
Central Intelligence Agency

From: Interdepartmental Coordinating Staff
for Foreign Information
Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs
Department of State

Subject: Intelligence Estimate of Current Soviet "Peace" Moves

1. On page 1, Section I of The New York Times edition of Sunday, January 16, 1949 there is an article by C. L. Sulzberger entitled "Communist 'Peace Offensive' Toward West Held Launched". On page 1 of The New York Times edition of Monday, January 17, 1949 there is an article by Arnaldo Cortesi entitled "Togliatti Adopts New Moscow Line". These articles refer to an apparent tactical shift in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the simultaneous launching of a "peace offensive" in France and Italy.

2. It is requested that you provide this staff with a coordinated intelligence estimate of the validity of the thesis of these two articles, reciting the arguments both for and against such a tactical shift in foreign policy by the Soviet Union at this time.

3. Since this estimate will be immediately used in preparing an information plan and program for use by United States government information facilities, it is hoped that you will treat this request as urgent.

Charles R. Norberg
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